

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 15-17, 19-20, 25-26, and 33-36 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 2, 12-14, 18, and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 12 and 22 were objected to due to minor informalities. The Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is now moot, since claims 12 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,486,791 (Spitalny et al.) Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spitalny et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0128767 (Kudoh). Claims 17, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kudoh in view of Spitalny. Claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-20, and 22-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For business reasons unrelated to patentability, Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and claim 18 has been incorporated into independent claim 17. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a

continuation application in which to pursue the original claims and/or any other claims.

For all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the prior art rejections and allowance of all claims currently pending in this application.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The Examiner is invited to initiate an interview with the undersigned by calling 815-885-1390 if the Examiner believes that such an interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 31, 2007

Date

/Robert D. Anderson/

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